



# LEADER GUIDE

June 14  
-  
July 5

A photograph of a person's back, showing their dark, curly hair and the collar of a light-colored shirt. They are looking out at a city skyline at night, with blurred lights from buildings in the background. The overall color palette is dark with blue and white highlights.

## THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION



# THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

---

**June 14 - July 5**

---

© 2026 City Church  
Beijing, China  
All rights reserved.  
Written by TJ Johnson

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



# LEADER GUIDE

**June 14**

## THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Imago Dei:  
Life and Death  
Genesis 1:26-28

# Sermon Overview

At the very beginning of creation, God decided to create man in His own image and likeness—which means He has a plan for us today. We are not a coincidence or someone's mistake, but God's own creation, made for His perfect will.

As we begin a new sermon series on technology, we will look at the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, to remind ourselves: 1) why we are here, and 2) what God wants for us. And how being made in His Image informs how we relate to technology.

Ps Stas Lyu

# Sermon Series Overview

June 14, 2026	Genesis 1:26-28	Imago Dei: Life and Death
June 21, 2026	Genesis 2:18	It is not Good to be Alone: Community
June 28, 2026	Genesis 3:1-6	Did God Really Say: Digital Temptation
July 5, 2026	Genesis 1:28	Have Dominion Over: Using Technology to the Glory of God



## *Imago Dei*

### **Sermon Outline**

**Title: Imago Dei**

**Text: Genesis 1:26-28**

**Theme: Since we are made in God's image, our technology must recognize and not devalue human worth.**

- 1. The initiative for creating man was from God, not from a man or evolution.**
- 2. God decided to create man in His own image.**
- 3. God had some clear purposes for a man.**
- 4. Man is a climax of God's creative activity.**
- 5. If God created man in his image and likeness, then what is the problem with humanity today?**

### **Sermon Notes**

### **Sermon Applications**



## Imago Dei

### Discussion Questions

***“26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”***

***27 So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.***

***28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”***

**Genesis 1:26-28**

**1. Which traits of God do we all possess as humans, and what does the creation account teach us about human worth?**

*As humans created in God's image, we reflect aspects of His character such as rationality, creativity, morality, relationality, and the ability to exercise stewardship. Genesis 1:26–28 teaches that every person has inherent dignity and worth, not because of achievements or status, but because they are made in God's image.*

**2. If humanity is made in God's image, why are there so many problems both within us and around us? What role does technology play in helping to overcome these problems?**

*Humans are made in God's image, yet the fall brought sin into the world, affecting both our hearts and society. Many problems exist because of human rebellion against God. Technology can help address some practical problems and aid spiritual growth through tools like Bible apps, but it cannot remove sin or change the heart.*

**3. In what ways can technology be used to devalue human worth?**

*Technology can devalue human worth when people are treated as data, consumers, or products rather than image-bearers of God. It can promote exploitation, pornography, misinformation, discrimination, and isolation.*

## Discussion Questions

**4. In what ways are we tempted to use technology to gain or enhance our worth, and how can we as Christians fight against this temptation?**

*We are often tempted to seek worth through social media approval, online influence, productivity, or digital achievements. Christians fight this by remembering that our identity comes from being made in God's image and redeemed by Christ. Regular prayer, Scripture, and Christian community help us find our value in God rather than technology.*

**5. Discuss the differences between artificial intelligence and humanity, as well as the ethical issues the church needs to address.**

*Artificial intelligence can process information, recognize patterns, and generate content, but it is not a human being. Humans are uniquely created in God's image (Genesis 1:26–28), possessing moral responsibility, self-awareness, eternal souls, and the capacity for a personal relationship with God. AI can imitate certain human abilities, but it cannot worship, repent, love God, or bear His image.*

**6. What are the various ways technology has been used to prevent, destroy, prolong, or create human life (including discussions on just-war theory, abortion, birth control, euthanasia, life support, IVF, etc.), and what is the biblical response to each?**

*This is a broad topic, and Christians differ on some applications. A helpful biblical framework is that human life is sacred because people are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26–27), God is the giver of life (Job 1:21), and we are called to protect and love human beings from conception to natural death.*

*For each of these issues, Christians should ask:*

- 1. Does this uphold the dignity of people made in God's image?*
- 2. Does it protect innocent life?*
- 3. Does it respect God's authority as Creator and Lord of life?*
- 4. Does it express love for neighbor and justice?*



*Imago Dei*

**Prayer & Praise**

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

**Prayer Requests**

**Praise Reports**



# LEADER GUIDE

**June 21**

## THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

It is not Good to be Alone:  
Community  
Genesis 2:18

# Sermon Overview

Hello City Church Family,

Nearly sixty years ago, The Beatles sang in "Eleanor Rigby" about all the lonely people — and the question still echoes today. This Sunday we turn to Genesis 2:18, where God says something rather surprising: "It is not good for the man to be alone." Right at the start, before anything had gone wrong, the very first thing God called "not good" was aloneness.

In a city where we can order lunch, book a Didi and chat to an AI at midnight, why does loneliness seem to be growing? Do come along this Sunday as we explore what the digital age and the Bible have to say about being alone — and discover why Jesus Himself is the one answer no clever technology could ever replace. We'd love to see you there!

Elder Ling Lai



*Not Good To Be Alone*

## Sermon Outline

**Title: It is not Good to be Alone: Community**

**Text: Genesis 2:18**

**Proposition: Since God made us to live in community, our technology must not isolate us from others but rather be used to strengthen rather than replace real community.**

- 1. No Technology Can Replace a Person.**
- 2. Efficiency Is a Terrible Way to Run Relationships.**
- 3. Community Is How We Grow, Not Just How We Cope.**

## Sermon Notes

## Sermon Applications



## Not Good To Be Alone

### Discussion Questions

***“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Genesis 2:18***

**1. Read Genesis 2:18-25. Why did God create humanity to be built around the family structure of marriage?**

*God created marriage for companionship, mutual help, and the flourishing of family life.*

- **How has digital technology—particularly social media, dating apps, AI-driven communication, etc—contributed to isolation in marriage? (consider its impact on marital delays and disfunctions).** *Technology can contribute to isolation through distraction, unrealistic expectations, and reduced face-to-face communication.*
- **How can technology be intentionally harnessed to strengthen marriage?** *Technology can also strengthen marriages through reminders to call your spouse during lunch, pray for your family, use marriage enrichment apps, have regular video calls when apart, and share devotionals. Used wisely, technology can support communication, intimacy, and spiritual growth within marriage.*

**2. Read Hebrews 10:24–25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 12:10, Galatians 6:2, Acts 2:42, 46, Colossians 3:16–17. What does the Bible teach about the need for face-to-face relationships among friends and family, and how it should be centered on Christ?**

*Scripture presents the Christian life as deeply relational. Hebrews 10:24–25 calls believers to meet together regularly, encourage one another, and stir one another up to love and good works. Acts 2:42, 46 shows Christians gathering in homes, sharing meals, worshiping, and learning together. Romans 12:10 and Galatians 6:2 teach us to love one another and bear each other's burdens. These relationships are not merely social; they are centered on Christ through worship, prayer, fellowship, Scripture, and mutual encouragement (Colossians 3:16–17).*



## Not Good To Be Alone

### Discussion Questions

- **In what ways does technology encourage (condition/catechize) radical individualism or isolation, and how can we guard against this lie?**

*Technology often encourages us to become self-centered and prioritize our own needs, preferences, and convenience over community. Social media can create an illusion of friendship without the real investment, commitment, and responsibilities that genuine relationships require. AI and other forms of entertainment technology make it easy to consume content for ourselves rather than spend meaningful time with people. To guard against this, we must intentionally prioritize church community, fellowship, hospitality, accountability, and face-to-face conversations, investing in real relationships rather than settling for digital substitutes.*

- **Reflecting on your own use of AI or social media (etc) as a substitute for real relationships, where have you been tempted to settle for digital connection over physical presence, and why?** *Digital connections are easier, faster, and less demanding. It allows us to control how much of ourselves we reveal, while genuine friendships require vulnerability, sacrifice, and commitment. Technology is helpful, but it should support—not replace—real Christian fellowship.*
- **Discuss the recent statistics on the loneliness epidemic and how the church (YOU) can better serve the lonely among us.** *The church can respond by intentionally welcoming newcomers, practicing hospitality, inviting people into homes, checking in on isolated members, and creating meaningful opportunities for fellowship. Each believer can contribute by noticing those who are alone, initiating conversations, sharing meals, praying with others, and building genuine friendships rather than assuming someone else will do it.*
- **What specific temptations does Beijing bring regarding loneliness?** *Beijing presents unique challenges. Many people live far from their families and home countries. Holidays can be especially difficult as friends travel home while others remain behind. Long work hours, demanding careers, heavy academic pressures, language barriers, and frequent relocation of expatriates can make deep relationships difficult to maintain. Technology helps us stay connected through WeChat and video calls, but believers should also intentionally invest in local church community, hospitality, discipleship, and face-to-face friendships so that no one walks through life alone.*



*Not Good To Be Alone*

## Discussion Questions

**3. The sermon ends with four practical actions: (1) name your aloneness, (2) choose real presence over digital convenience, (3) invest in this community, and (4) stay connected to Jesus.**

- Which of these four steps is most challenging for you right now and why?
- What is one specific thing you will do this week to take that step—and who in this group will hold you accountable?



*Not Good To Be Alone*

**Prayer & Praise**

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

**Prayer Requests**

Blank area for writing prayer requests.

**Praise Reports**

Blank area for writing praise reports.



# LEADER GUIDE

**June 28**

## THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Technology and Temptation  
Genesis 3:1-6

# Sermon Overview

As you read this message you are probably holding or sitting in front of some electronic device, utilizing an email server that delivered this message, which your internet provider routed across networks, and finally a home router or cell tower brought it to your screen. In other words, you are highly engaged with technology.

Technology is everywhere. It is so invasive, even the Amish can't fully escape it. Because it is everywhere, it has become commonplace, which means you are most likely unaware of how much you are engaging with technology every second of every day. How many times did you pick up your cell phone today? How many times did you check your email? How many hours did you spend scrolling Instagram or checking WeChat messages? The actual number might surprise you.

The danger with our mindless usage of technology is that technology is not natural. Just as introducing an invasive species into the ecosystem changes the entire ecosystem, so too new technologies change the culture around us. And in so doing, it seeks to change us. Therefore, we must be vigilant in our tech usage to guard our hearts from all forms of temptation. We use it every day—but how often do we pause to ask: What is this doing to my soul? More specifically, in what ways is technology tempting me to sin against the God who loves me and died to redeem me?

This Sunday, we'll reflect on the world's first temptation in order to help us better know how to guard against the ever-present temptations of technology.

In Him,

Elder TJ Johnson

## *Did God Actually Say*

### **Sermon Outline**

**Title: Technology and Temptation**

**Text: Genesis 3:1-6**

**Proposition: Technology is never neutral, but rather is always influencing us for good or evil; therefore, we must not allow technology to lead us into sin.**

- 1. Satan Seeks to Deceive God's People.**
- 2. Satan Seeks to Discredit God.**
- 3. Satan Seeks to Dethrone God.**

### **Sermon Notes**

### **Sermon Applications**

## Did God Actually Say

### Discussion Questions

***“1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” Genesis 3:1-6***

**1. What are some ways technology has changed the church today, and do you think this is a good change? Explain.**

*Technology has expanded access to biblical teaching, online worship, Bible apps, and global missions, helping many grow in God's Word. However, it can also encourage consumerism, distraction, and replacing genuine church fellowship with online participation. Technology is beneficial when it supports the church but should never replace gathered worship and discipleship.*

**2. In what ways does the Bible portray Satan as crafty and deceptive? In what ways do you think Satan is crafty and deceptive with technology today, and how can we “be wise as serpents” toward deceptive technology?**

*In Genesis 3:1–6, Satan deceived Eve by twisting God's Word and planting doubt about His goodness rather than openly denying Him. Likewise, technology can be used for spiritual growth or deception. We must test everything by Scripture, exercise discernment, and use technology wisely instead of allowing it to shape our beliefs.*

**3. Give examples from the Bible where Satan seeks to discredit God’s Word or cause believers to doubt God’s trustworthiness.**



## *Did God Actually Say*

### **Discussion Questions**

*We have many examples in Scripture of Satan seeking to undermine God's Word by creating doubt and encouraging disobedience. In Genesis 3, Satan questioned God's command and planted doubt about His goodness. In Matthew 4, he twisted Scripture while tempting Jesus, attempting to misuse God's Word. In the book of Job, Satan accused Job of serving God only because of God's blessings. Today, Satan continues to use similar tactics. Believers must know Scripture well, test every teaching carefully, and trust God's goodness even when circumstances, temptations, or false teaching cause us to question His character or His Word.*

#### **4. In what ways is Satan using technology today to distort, discredit or sow doubt toward God's Word?**

*Satan can use technology to spread false teaching, distort Scripture, and promote ideas that contradict God's truth. Social media, AI, and online influencers can normalize sin, question biblical authority, or present God's commands as outdated or harmful. Misinformation spreads quickly, making it easy for believers to be confused or deceived. Technology can also distract us from spending time in God's Word through endless entertainment and busyness. Christians should test every message against Scripture, cultivate discernment, and use technology as a tool to grow in faith rather than allowing it to shape their beliefs and values.*

#### **5. In what ways does technology make us more self-centered and less "reliant" on God, and how do we resist this temptation?**

*Technology can make us more self-centered by encouraging instant gratification, independence, and constant reliance on information rather than on God. We resist this by cultivating prayer, reading Scripture daily, practicing contentment, limiting unnecessary screen time, and remembering that true wisdom, guidance, and strength come from God alone, not technology.*

#### **6. How does Genesis 3:6 describe the attractiveness of temptation (see also 1 John 2:16-17), and how might this relate to temptations with technology today?**



## *Did God Actually Say*

### **Discussion Questions**

*Genesis 3:6 shows that temptation appears attractive, desirable, and beneficial, yet it leads to disobedience against God. First John 2:16 describes the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life. Much of today's technology appeals to these desires through constant visual stimulation, entertainment, and self-promotion.*

#### **7. In your own opinion, what are the biggest temptations that modern technology poses today?**

*One of the greatest temptations of modern technology is distraction. It constantly competes for our attention, making it difficult to focus on God, relationships, and meaningful work. Technology also encourages pride through social media, comparison with others, instant gratification, and the desire for recognition. It can expose us to pornography, false teaching, and endless entertainment that dulls our spiritual hunger. While technology itself is not sinful, it easily becomes an idol when we depend on it more than God. Christians should use technology wisely, exercising self-control and ensuring it serves God's purposes rather than replacing them.*

#### **8. Considering the present state of technology, what are your biggest concerns about the future and its impact on the Christian life?**

*One concern about future technology is how it will shape people's beliefs as well as their view of human life. IVF, genetic testing, and other bio-technologies can raise ethical questions about the value of embryos and whether life is something we control rather than receive from God. At the same time, AI, social media, and digital platforms can influence what people believe about truth, morality, and identity, often shaping opinions more than Scripture. Christians must stay grounded in God's Word so technology does not replace God's truth or reshape faith in unhealthy ways.*



*Not Good To Be Alone*

**Prayer & Praise**

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

**Prayer Requests**

Blank area for writing prayer requests.

**Praise Reports**

Blank area for writing praise reports.



# LEADER GUIDE

July 5

## THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Have Dominion Over: Using  
Technology to the Glory of God  
Genesis 1:28

# Sermon Overview

Last week's sermon focused mainly on the potential evil usage of technology. It was a reminder that every time we pick up our devices, we must be keenly aware that Satan is there, encouraging us to use it for sinful purposes.

This week, we will look at the potential good usage of technology. Since creation, God has commissioned humanity to push back the darkness and shape the wild world into spaces that glorify Him. From plows to smartphones, technology has always been a tool to assist humanity in their God-given mission to subdue the earth. This means that every time we pick up our devices, we must be keenly aware that the Holy Spirit is there, encouraging us to use it to bring great good into our world.

This Sunday, we will explore the creation mandate in Genesis 1:28 and offer five principles for using technology to cultivate His world for His glory.

Elder TJ Johnson



## *Have Dominion*

### **Sermon Outline**

**Title: Have Dominion Over: Using Technology to the Glory of God**

**Text: Genesis 1:28**

**Prop: God has commanded and empowered humanity to rule over all of creation, therefore, our technology must serve rather than sabotage this mission.**

- 1. Subdue All the Earth.**
- 2. Subdue Only the Earth.**
- 3. Subdue Creation, Not One Another.**
- 4. Subdue, Not Be Subdued.**
- 5. Subdue for the Glory of God.**

### **Sermon Notes**

### **Sermon Applications**



## Have Dominion

### Discussion Questions

***“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.””***

**Genesis 1:28**

**1. What specific 'wilderness' has God placed before you to cultivate—your home, your workplace, your community, or something else? How has He uniquely equipped you for that task, and what technology has been most helpful in fulfilling that calling?** *For leaders: encourage group members to think beyond careers and consider every sphere God has entrusted to them—family, workplace, church, neighborhood, or friendships. Help them identify how God has gifted them to serve others there and discuss how technology can be used as a faithful tool to support that calling rather than becoming the focus or replacing personal relationships and dependence on God.*

**2. The fall has made it harder for humanity to subdue the earth (Genesis 3:17-19). Where have you felt that friction most acutely—whether in your work, your home, or your personal life? How have you responded to that frustration, and where have you been tempted to give up or become passive?** *The fall affects every area of life, making work, relationships, and serving others difficult because of sin. We often experience frustration, discouragement, and the temptation to become passive. Yet, through Christ's work on the cross, we have hope to persevere, pursue reconciliation, and faithfully serve while awaiting the full restoration of creation.*

**3. Using the six days of creation pattern (1/4, 2/5, 3/6) discuss how humanity has used technology to subdue (form and fill) the earth. What areas do you feel are still “wild” and in need of subduing?** *Technology is one of the tools God has given humanity to help fulfill the creation mandate by cultivating, organizing, and stewarding the earth. Through technology we develop agriculture, medicine, transportation, communication, and infrastructure to “form and fill” creation. Yet many areas remain “wild,” including disease, poverty, environmental degradation, and the human heart, which only Christ can truly transform.*

## Discussion Questions

**4. Technology can sometimes tempt us to escape earth rather than cultivate it—whether through doom-scrolling, virtual reality, dystopian fatalism, or fantasies of colonizing other planets. What are some modern examples of this 'retreat from earth,' and why should Christians resist this mindset? How does our hope in the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21:1-5) shape a healthier view of our earthly calling? God did not call us to escape the earth but to cultivate, steward, and care for it. While missions to the Moon or Mars demonstrate human creativity and technological advancement, they should not become an attempt to flee the responsibilities God has given us here. Christians resist a mindset of escape because God created the earth good and has promised to renew it, not abandon it (Revelation 21:1–5). Our hope in the new heavens and new earth motivates us to faithfully serve, care for creation, love our neighbors, and advance God's kingdom while we await Christ's return.**

**5. Despite its power, technology cannot solve humanity's deepest problems—sin, death, meaninglessness, or the brokenness of the human heart. What problems have you seen technology fail to fix, and what does that limitation teach us about our need for Christ? How should this humble us in our technological ambitions? Technology can repair many physical problems—even helping treat diseases or perform heart surgery—but it cannot heal the spiritual condition of the human heart. While tools such as Bible apps, Christian podcasts, and biblical research can help us grow in our knowledge of God, they cannot save us or remove our sin. Technology is a useful tool, but only Christ can transform the heart, forgive sin, and reconcile us to God. This reminds us to be humble in our technological ambitions and never place our hope in human achievement rather than in Christ.**

**6. In what ways have we used technology to subdue other humans, and how can the church be a voice against such unethical usage of technology? Can you think of any examples from history where Christians spoke out in such situations?**

## Discussion Questions

*Propaganda, mass surveillance, cybercrime, human trafficking through online platforms, autonomous weapons, discriminatory AI, and technologies used to support slavery, racism, or oppression. Instead of protecting human dignity, these uses treat people as objects to be controlled rather than image-bearers of God.*

*William Wilberforce worked tirelessly to abolish the British slave trade. Dietrich Bonhoeffer opposed the Nazi regime and defended those being persecuted. Martin Luther King Jr. challenged racial injustice from a biblical foundation. These Christians recognized that following Christ sometimes means confronting systems that misuse power and deny the God-given dignity of human beings.*

**7. What practical boundaries have you and your family put in place to keep technology as a servant, not a master? What changes (small or large) might God be asking you to make in your tech habits?**

*There are many, and they could be specific to each family. Some families can set boundaries by limiting screen time, keeping devices away during meals and family devotions, and prioritizing face-to-face conversations. Families can also schedule regular times without phones for prayer, rest, and fellowship. These habits help ensure technology serves God's purposes rather than controlling our attention and relationships*

**8. While technology can be used for great good, the intent behind our tech usage is equally important (Romans 14:23). How do you ensure you are not just doing good with technology, but doing good for the explicit purpose of bringing glory to God? Do you ever feel as if your work can't contribute to the Kingdom mission? If so, why? To leaders: encourage your members to use technology with the intention of honoring God, serving others, and advancing His kingdom, rather than pursuing recognition or convenience. Whether through work, communication, or learning, our goal should be to glorify Christ. Every honest vocation can contribute to God's kingdom when done faithfully, with integrity, excellence, and love for others**

**9. What are some ways technology has been used to advance the gospel and how have you personally used technology to share the gospel?**

*Have Dominion*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports